(c) and (d). The Scheme is being implemented by the State Government depending upon availability of funds.

[English]

Collection Centre at Surat

3370. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :
SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to upgrade Surat Collection Centre into a full fledged passport office to avoid the inordinate delay in issue of passport to the persons of the area;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this likely to be upgraded; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c). There is no proposal at present to upgrade the Collection Centre at Surat into a full fledged passport office. The Standing Committee recommendations are that apart from other reasons, there must be at least 50,000 applications for a full fledged office to be opened. The number of applications received from the District of Surat and the contiguous districts of Bharuch, Dang and Valsad in 1995 was only 27,268.

[Translation]

Pak's Anti-India Propaganda

3371. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the High Commission of Pakistan located in Nepal is indulging in anti-India propaganda and also providing protection to the extremists;

(b) whether the Government have taken-up the matter with Nepal; and

(c) if so, the response of Nepal thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c). We have received reports that the Pakistani mission in Nepal has been engaging in a number of anti-Indian activities. This matter has been taken up with the Nepalese authorities. During the visit of the Foreign Minister of Nepal to India in August 1996, the subject of security and measures to counter terrorism was discussed. Both sides reiterated their commitment not to allow activities in the territory of either country prejudicial to the security of the other. It was also decided that in order to discourage movement of undesirable elements across the border, there should be a more effective system of monitoring of movement across the border. Regular exchange of views takes place between concerned authorities in India and Nepal to tackle specific issues.

Financial assistance to Maharashtra

3372. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have provided any assistance to the Government of Maharashtra for the procurement of essential medicines and other essential equipments including the Surgical equipments for eliminating paucity of these in many Government Hospitals;

(b) if so, the amount of the assistance provided therefor;

(c) whether the said amount has been properly and fully utilised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Under National Programme for Control of Blindness the following financial assistance was provided to Maharashtra during last three years

Year	Cash Grant for Drugs and consumables.	Commodity (Rs. in lakhs) Sutures	Ophthalmic Equipments.
1994-95	20.00	112.57	15.38
1995-96	39.00	42.21	120.40
1996-97	50.00		Not yet supplied.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The centralised purchase has been done by Govt. of India for sutures and ophthalmic equipments and the same is utilised for the purpose for which it was released. Under cash grants the State has utilised a sum of Rs. 36.50 and Rs. 42.65 lakhs during the year 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively for the purchase of drugs and consumables.

[English]

Pattern of CBSE Examinations

3373. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Board of Secondary Examinations proposes to switch over from the pattern of objective type questions to some other pattern;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the recommendations of Yashpal Committee have been accepted; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) In the existing pattern of Question Papers framed for the Secondary and Senior Secondary Examinations conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education, there are no objective type questions.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Major recommendations of the Yash Pal Committee have been accepted by the Government. These include laying down norms for pre-schools, discontinuance of tests/interviews for admission in pre-schools, greater involvement of teachers in preparation of school textbooks, replacement of context-based and quiz-type questions by concept-based questions in public examinations conducted at secondary and senior secondary school levels and extensive use of audio-visual materials in transaction of school curriculum.

Human Organs

3374. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any lawnae in the administration of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994 have come to the notice of Government and if so, the detail, thereof;

(b) whether many instances have been reported in the press, where human organs, particularly kidneys, have been taken for monestory considerations;

(c) if so, the State-wise number of such cases and the action taken thereon; and

(d) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to make the law more stringent with regard to transplantation of human organs and if so, the details thereof and if not, the manner in which Government propose to deal with the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (c). The Trnasplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994, is sufficiently stringent containing provisions for imprisonment/high fines for persons dealing unlawfully in human organs. The punishment for commercial transactions in human organs covers the donor/the done/doctors and hospitals involved, persons abetting such transactions etc. Some reports of continuance of illegal trade in human organs have come to notice on which the States who are implementing the Act have initiated action. According to available information, such cases have been reported in the States of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and the NCT of Delhi where doctors/agents have been arrested, chargesheets issued, doctors deregistered etc.

(d) The adequacy of the Act effectively stop the trade and sale of Human Organs can be assessed only if the Act is adopted by all the State Governments and implemented by them in right earnest. However, so far only 12 States and the Union Territories have adopted the Central Legislation/enacted similar legislation of their own. The other States are being continuously requested to adopt the Act.

Sale of Expired Drugs

3375. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether many cases of expired Drugs sales by Chemists have been detected by the Government;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to cancel the licences of such defaulters;

(c) whether many Government Hospitals are getting Sub-standard expired drugs through such dealers; and

(d) whether any action plan has been chalked out by the Government to prevent such sale of expired drugs by Chemists and Druggists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (d). The Central Government Hospitals in Delhi including the Central Government Health Schemes Organisation have not reported receipt of expired drugs from Chemists. However, the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Rules made thereunder empower the State Licensing Authority to take punitive action against Chemists and Druggists who are found selling date expired drugs.

[Translation]

Birth Anniversary of Munshi Prem Chand

3376. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any amount had been sanctioned by the Government to Shri Prem Chand Memorial Building and developmental scheme committee, village Lamhi, Varanasi for commemoration of the birth anniversary of the great Hindi novelist Munshi Prem Chand;

(b) if so, whether that amount had been utilised for the Birth Anniversary; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs. 25,000/- was sanctioned in favour of Shri Prem Chand Memorial Building and Development Scheme Committee, Lamhi, Varanasi for